

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to recognize the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra upon its 75th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra is hosting a commemorative gala that will feature its signature Holiday Pops concert on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at the Star Plaza Theatre in Merrillville, Indiana.

The Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra humbly originated in 1941 as a vision from cello instructor Arthur Zack, who hailed from Gary, Indiana. Using the Gary Post-Tribune as a means to recruit performers, Zack led twenty-six musicians for the group's first rehearsal. From this foundation, the roster flourished, and the first concert was performed on December 7, 1941, at Seaman Hall of City Methodist Church in Gary. Regrettably, news of the attack on Pearl Harbor was received prior to the start of the performance, which prompted Zack to open the concert with a heart-felt rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" on the piano. With reverence to the importance of that decision, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra will commence its 75th anniversary concert with the national anthem.

While remaining with the organization for several more years, Zack's perseverance and energy helped shape and establish the group, then known as the Gary Symphony. Over the years, its musicians have delighted audiences with their performances at various churches and schools throughout Northwest Indiana. In 1972, the members reorganized as the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and continued to host concerts at area high schools.

The Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra held its first performance at the Star Plaza Theatre in September of 1981, the same venue at which the outstanding musicians performed their first concert in November of 1982. The following year, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra branded the Star Plaza Theatre as its home concert hall, although they still remained true to their roots by performing at other local venues in the community, including a series of outdoor concerts.

The Northwest Indiana Symphony is now comprised of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Chorus, and the Women's Association. The Orchestra takes pride in its dedication to encouraging youth to broaden their knowledge and appreciation of music through educational programs.

Since its inception, scores of distinguished and renowned musicians and entertainers from around the world have featured their tal-

ents alongside the orchestra. Well-known names in music, such as Benny Goodman, Dizzy Gillespie, Doc Severinsen and the Tonight Show Band, and Roger Williams, have performed as guest artists over the years.

For the last 75 years, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra has entertained and enchanted audiences with their executions of both classical and contemporary music. Their faithful devotion to promoting the arts in Northwest Indiana has provided accessibility to cultural and enriching opportunities for exceptional musical performances to all local residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating and celebrating the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra on its 75th anniversary. Northwest Indiana is grateful and proud to be home to the brilliantly talented members of this organization, and for their outstanding gifts, leadership, and service, these members are worthy of the highest praise.

### HONORING GARY A. ROSEMA, OTTAWA COUNTY SHERIFF, ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Sheriff Gary Rosema, on his retirement from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office.

After graduating from the FBI National Academy, Gary Rosema began his career in law enforcement in 1973 as a patrol officer for the Coopersville Police Department. One year later, he joined the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department as a deputy and achieved the rank of detective in 1981. In 1993, Gary Rosema was elected to serve as Ottawa County's sheriff.

Sheriff Rosema has dedicated his career to providing the highest quality law enforcement service to the residents and communities in Ottawa County. His relentless work for the community includes serving as chairman of Michigan's Council on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Initiatives and Chair of the Operations Board of Directors for the West Michigan Enforcement Team, which is a multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement task force.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Second District of Michigan, we thank Sheriff Gary Rosema for his 43 years of service to West Michigan and to our nation.

### HONORING THE FAIRFIELD AREA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I proudly honor my constituents, the Fairfield Area High School Girls' Soccer team, for earning the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Class 1A championship. These young women have brought home the first state team sports title in Fairfield's history.

The Green Knights defeated District VII Champion, Shady Side, in a 9–4 victory at Hersheypark Stadium on November 18, 2016. The Green Knights finished the season with a 25–1 record and scored 27 goals in four state playoff games, including two nine-goal performances.

For a team from a small community, the Green Knights had an army of loyal supporters. I extend my congratulations to head coach Phomma Phanhty, and the school officials, family and friends who supported these young women on this incredible journey.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate the Fairfield Area High School Girls' Soccer team on the hard work and dedication that led to their 2016 State Championship.

### HONORING MOTHER IRENE L. GARY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable person, Mrs. Irene L. Gary.

Mrs. Irene L. Gary affectionately known as "Julie" was born on September 5, 1930 in Goodman, Mississippi to the late Ozzie Lloyd and Essie Long. She received her general education from the Georgeville Community. She served as a cook for Holmes Community College which she loved doing for many years. Throughout her career she served in the capacity for other businesses until retirement.

Irene's spiritual life began when she joined Georgeville United Methodist Church in Goodman, Mississippi. She relocated to Lexington, Mississippi where she began to worship at St. John C.M.E. Church under the pastorage of the late Rev. Larry Blackmon. Later in life she joined the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorage of Rev. Edward Charles Pitchford where she served faithfully until her health began to decline. Because of her spirit of serving others, she was chosen by her pastor to be a part of the Mother's Board. She loved her church, her pastor and his family. Irene was a unique individual; you had to

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